Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE RE THAI INTERNATIONAL

- 1. IN AUGUST 2 ISSUE, WALL STREET JOURNAL QUOTED THAI INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL AS SAYING, AT TIME OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF 156 MILLION DOLLAR PURCHASE OF BOEING AIRCRAFT, THAT "THAI IS ABOUT TO BEGIN STUDY TO DETERMINE WHAT ROUTES COMPANY SHOULD ADD TO ITS EXISTING NETWORK. THAI CURRENTLY HOLDS LANDING RIGHTS IN HONOLULU, LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK UNDER THAI-US AVIATION AGREEMENT. BUT ONE AIRLINE EXECUTIVE SUGGESTED COMPANY MIGHT CONSIDER TRADING THESE CITIES FOR ONES WITH FEWER INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS. SEATTLE AND CHICAGO WERE NAMED AS POSSIBILITIES".
- 2. AS EMBASSY KNOWS, THAI INTERNATIONAL HOLDS NO PERMIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO OPERATE TO US ALTHOUGH US-THAI AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT DOES PROVIDE RIGHTS TO THESE SPECIFIC US POINTS. ALSO, CHICAGO IS MAJOR INTERNATIONAL POINT. DEPT REQUESTS EMBASSY MAKE INFORMAL INQUIRIES IF STUDY IS BEING MADE. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT PROVOKE ANY INTEREST ON PART OF THAI TO SEEK US ROUTES. VANCE

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